



P.B.5818 - Patentlaan 2  
2280 HV Rijswijk (ZH)  
☎ +31 70 340 2040  
TX 31651 epo nl  
FAX +31 70 340 3016

**Europäisches  
Patentamt**

Zweigstelle  
in Den Haag  
Recherchen-  
abteilung

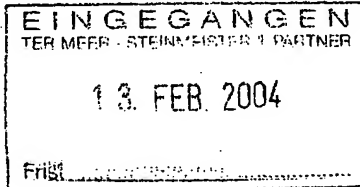
**European  
Patent Office**

Branch at  
The Hague  
Search  
division

**Office européen  
des brevets**

Département à  
La Haye  
Division de la  
recherche

Wagner, Bernhard Peter  
ter Meer Steinmeister & Partner GbR  
Mauerkircherstrasse 45  
81679 München  
ALLEMAGNE



Datum/Date  
13.02.04

Zeichen/Ref./Réf. P362-2 Wa/az	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°. 03029806.1-2318-
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Propriétaire/Titulaire Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd.	

## COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☒ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

1

## REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
✓ X	WO 02 02045 A (TAKAHASHI KUNIYOSHI ; MIKI AKITOSHI (JP); TANAKA KOICHI (JP); MORI) 10 January 2002 (2002-01-10) -& EP 1 297 813 A 2 April 2003 (2003-04-02) * paragraphs '0065!-'0071!; figures 1,5-7,18-26 *	1-7	A61H1/00 A61H37/00
✓ X	US 5 741 218 A (FUJII YASUO) 21 April 1998 (1998-04-21) * column 4, line 1 - column 5, line 21; figures 1-3 *	1,2	
✓ X	EP 1 020 174 A (FAMILY KABUSHIKI KAISHA) 19 July 2000 (2000-07-19) * paragraphs '0033!-'0047!; figures 1-4 *	1,2	
✓ X	US 5 755 677 A (OHSHITA SHOJI ET AL) 26 May 1998 (1998-05-26) * column 8, line 54 - column 9, line 28; figure 13 *	1-3	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			A61H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 3 February 2004	Examiner Fischer, E
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 03 02 9806

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

03-02-2004

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 0202045	A	10-01-2002	JP	2002078767 A	19-03-2002
			AU	6636001 A	14-01-2002
			CN	1457250 T	19-11-2003
			EP	1297813 A1	02-04-2003
			WO	0202045 A1	10-01-2002
			TW	508237 B	01-11-2002
-----					
US 5741218	A	21-04-1998	JP	2782181 B2	30-07-1998
			JP	9271499 A	21-10-1997
			CN	1163746 A ,B	05-11-1997
			DE	19713134 A1	20-11-1997
			KR	205129 B1	01-07-1999
			TW	442279 B	23-06-2001
-----					
EP 1020174	A	19-07-2000	WO	9965444 A1	23-12-1999
			EP	1020174 A1	19-07-2000
-----					
US 5755677	A	26-05-1998	AU	2223895 A	09-02-1996
			CA	2171095 A1	25-01-1996
			CN	1130349 A ,B	04-09-1996
			DE	69524193 D1	10-01-2002
			DE	69524193 T2	18-07-2002
			EP	0721319 A1	17-07-1996
			HK	1019002 A1	11-10-2002
			WO	9601610 A1	25-01-1996
			JP	3163222 B2	08-05-2001
			JP	8080327 A	26-03-1996
			JP	2001120629 A	08-05-2001
			KR	182325 B1	01-04-1999
			JP	2995146 B2	27-12-1999
			JP	8080328 A	26-03-1996
-----					